

Message Text

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53

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /166 W

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R 251505 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8142

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, PO, GATT

SUBJECT: SOYBEAN OIL

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

1. IN CALL ON MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY, CHARGE POST EXPRESSED (A) US PLEASURE AT RECENT DECISION BY THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE SOYBEAN OIL EDIBLE IN PORTUGAL AND (B) HOPE THAT OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD FOLLOW PORTUGUESE EXAMPLE OF REMOVAL OF A NON- TARIFF BARRIER.

2. THE MINISTER SAID DECISION ON SOYBEAN OIL HAD BEEN TAKEN ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY AND THAT THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES OVER THIS MATTER HAD BEEN VERY MUCH IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE DECISION. THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD FOLLOWED THE MATTER VERY CLOSELY AND HAD BEEN A PARTICULARLY STRONG ADVOCATE OF THE AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW. THE MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PRESENT PRICE AND SUPPLY SITUATION FOR SOYBEANS.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING DIRECT IMPORTATION OF SOYBEAN OIL, THE MINISTER STATED THAT THIS WAS ABSOLUTELY OUT OF THE QUESTION. THERE HAD BEEN A BITTER BATTLE TO HAVE SOYBEAN OIL DECLARED EDIBLE, AND IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY AND TACTICALLY DISASTROUS TO UPSET THIS DELICATE SITUATION BY ALLOWING IMPORTS AT THIS TIME. THE MINISTER FURTHER STATED THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT A QUALITY SOYBEAN OIL FROM LOCALLY CRUSHED BEANS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE PORTUGUESE MARKET.

POST

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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